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DISCOVERY OF NOVA CYGNI 3. (Observatory, No. 556)

Gentlemen,——

Since I had the honour of being one of the independent discoverers of Nova Aquilae (1918) I have, while watching for meteors, pursued the work of searching for new stars also. On August 20 the night was very clear, and at 9:30 G. M. T. I noticed a star in Cygnus (of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ mag.) which I could not remember to have seen before, though the positions of naked-eye stars in the N. hemisphere are familiar to me. I obtained the rough place of the suspected object as R. A. 299° Dec. N. $53\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, and on reference to my celestial globe, atlases, and catalogues quite failed to identify the star—in fact, the position I assigned to it seemed vacant on the charts etc. I therefore concluded it to be a nova and notified the Astronomer Royal and Prof. Turner by means of telegrams and postcards.

On the previous night, Aug. 19, I had been observing the same region for 2 hours (10h to 12h G. M. T.), but saw nothing of any strange object. The night was not good, however; the stars were slightly dimmed by mist, and I might easily have overlooked the nova had it been fainter than mag. 4.

The brightness of the nova has shown considerable increase since the night of discovery, my observations being as under:——

Aug. 20.....mag. 3. 5	Sky clear.
21.....mag. 3. 3	Seen only through openings in swiftly passing clouds and value doubtful.
22.....mag. 2. 8	Sky pretty clear
23.....mag. 2. 2	Sky quite clear at times. (Mean of 3 observations during the night.)

Aug. 24 was overcast and not a star visible.

I presume that, as new stars appeared in Cygnus in 1600 (Jansen) and in 1876 (Schmidt), the present nova will be called Nova Cygni III.

I am, Gentleman,

Yours faithfully,

W. F. Denning.

Bristol, 1920, Aug 25.

Nova Aquila: 鷲座新星——meteors: 流星——new stars: 新星——G. M. T. グリニチ平均太陽(標準)時, Greenwich Mean Time の略——Cygnus: 白鳥座—— $3\frac{1}{2}$ mag.: 三等半——naked-eye stars: 肉眼で見える星——N. Hemisphere: 北半球——R. A.: 赤經, Right Ascension の略——Dec.: 赤緯, Declination の略——celestial globe: 天球儀——catalogues: 星表——nova: 新星(學名)——Astronomer Royal: 勅任天文博士, 英國グリニチ天文臺長の官名——region: 天の一部——dimmed: ホンヤリした——mist: 霧——observation: 観測——clear: 晴——Mean: 平均——overcast: 曇——Nova Cygni III: 白鳥座第三新星

英文欄

白鳥座第三新星的發見

デニング(英國プリストル)